

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
HEW-06 HUD-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ABF-01 HA-05 CEQ-01
SOE-02 COME-00 EPA-04 NSF-02 OES-09 DOE-15 INT-05
AGR-01 /204 W

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R 311722Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2712
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 11725

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC, ITEM 19 - HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS

1. SUBJECT ITEM WAS INTRODUCED JULY 19 BUT BECAUSE
OF THE ABSENCE OF THE NEWLY APPOINTED EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR FOR THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, THE
DELEGATES REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF DISCUSSIONS UNTIL
SUCH TIME WHEN HE COULD BE PRESENT.

2. HOWEVER, BEFORE THIS DECISION ON POSTPONEMENT WAS
REACHED, POLAND, MEXICO AND CANADA HAD ALREADY MADE
THEIR STATEMENTS.

3. ACCORDINGLY, ON JULY 25, DISCUSSIONS RESUMED WITH
THE FIRST STATEMENT BEING MADE BY ARCOT RAMACHANDRAN,
NEWLY APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE.
IT WAS SHORT; HE REFERRED TO PROBLEM OF HUMAN SETTLE-
MENTS AS MULTI-FACETED, COMPLEX, AND WHERE THERE IS A
NEED FOR NEW APPROACHES WITH SPECIFIC GOALS AND
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OPTIMUM COOPERATION AMONG UN AGENCIES.

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (MRS SIPILA) INTRODUCED AND
SUMMARIZED THE REPORT ON SPECIAL MEASURES TO MEET THE
NEED FOR A DECENT LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE MOST
VULNERABLE GROUPS OF SOCIETY (E/1978/91 AND ADD 1).

5. IN GENERAL, DELEGATES DESCRIBED MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND/OR WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE THE MAJOR PROBLEMS WHICH THE NEW CENTRE SHOULD ADDRESS. MOST OF THIS WAS A REHASH OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (APRIL 3-7, 1978) AND SUMMARIZED IN DOCUMENT A/33/8.

6. SOME HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

A) MEXICO LINKED PROGRAM TO NIEO OBJECTIVE, CALLED FOR COOPERATION AT GLOBAL LEVEL, BELIEVES THAT UNEP AND HABITAT REGIONAL PROJECTS SHOULD BE COMBINED, ADVISES THAT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BE FLEXIBLE AND ALSO STATED THAT MEXICO IS TRYING TO SOLVE OAF PROBLEMS;

B) POLAND REITERATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS LINK TO NIEO AND SOCIAL EQUALITY, NEED TO ADDRESS PROBLEM ON NATIONAL-REGIONAL-GLOBAL LEVELS, NEED FOR NEW RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND PREFERS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS BUDGET BE A COMBINATION OF REGULAR UN BUDGET PLUS VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS;

C) INDIA, PHILIPPINES, JAPAN AND COLOMBIA ALL REFERRED TO PROBLEMS OF SWOLLEN CITIES, SLUMS AND NEED FOR LOW COST HOUSING;
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D) GREECE CITED THAT TOPOGRAPHY IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT WHICH NEEDS FURTHER RESEARCH;

E) UNESCO CALLED FOR, INTER ALIA, MORE TRAINING FACILITIES FOR ARCHITECT AND URBAN PLANNERS;

F) USSR, OF COURSE, HAS NO HOUSING PROBLEMS - ALL SECTORS OF PEOPLE HAVE HOMES BEST SUITED FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS;

G) MOST DELEGATES CALLED FOR COOPERATION AMONG UN AGENCIES AND COLLABORATION WITH NGOS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CENTRE WILL BE ABLE TO DO JOB FOR WHICH IT WAS CREATED IN CONTEXT OF PERCEIVED PRIORITIES;

H) FRANCE, IN USUAL STYLE, ADDRESSED DETAILS OF SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORT, WHICH, MOST DELEGATES ADMITTED IN PRIVATE, WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR AN ECOSOC FORUM AND BEST LEFT FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS;

I) CAMEROON EXPRESSED THANKS FOR BEING VOTED IN AS

NEW MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION;

J) US CONGRATULATED NEW HEAD OF CENTRE AND WISHED HIM SUCCESS;

K) SOME DELEGATES CALLED FOR INCREASED VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FUND; THE GOAL FOR 1978 - 81 IS \$50 MILLION.

7. IN CLOSING, RAMACHANDRAN SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE COMMISSION AND UN AGENCIES AND PROMISED HIS BEST EFFORTS.

8. DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBJECT SEPARATE MESSAGE.

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